

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes May 4, 2005 Conference Call

Members Present: Helen Jones, President
Spencer Ellis, Vice President
Jim Mickelson
Gene Hardy
David Graham
Lee Otto
Meghan Lally
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture

Youth Leadership Advisory: Ryan Ells
David Largent

Members Absent: Emily Horton
Leif Udem
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary

Guests: Jennifer Womack

The meeting was called to order by President Jones 8:00 a.m. on May 4, 2005.

Board Discussion

Cheatgrass - Hank Uhden sent a request to the Attorney General's office on May 2 for advice on how to proceed on adding it to the Noxious Weed List. Gene had questioned the possibility of this listing impacting the seed producers. We are not aware of any at this time, but WDA will check to see if it's listing will impact the weed free hay. It was suggested to list it as a weed of special concern instead of list it as a noxious weed.

Livestock Board - They had a conference call last night and have scheduled a meeting on May 18 in Casper at 3 p.m. They will be discussing 4 options Jennifer Womack was on the call and said she didn't have those 4 options in front of her, but felt it was a good idea for each board member to visit with the Livestock Board Members as any decisions they make will affect producers.

Joint Ag Committee meeting - John wrote a large article in Tuesday Tidbits on the outcomes of the meetings and asked if that was sufficient. They all agreed.

Wild horses - John asked for the board's help in asking producers to help count the numbers of horses so we can begin to build a files noting the number of head on private property.

Estate planning - Meghan has been working with a friend who works with the Fence Post on publishing a series of articles which will encourage dialogue as well as other aspects.

Pigmy rabbits - Jim Mickelson said Sublette County has a student who is presently doing a count survey. He said it is a sage brush related animal and is listed on the concerned list.

Brucellosis - The recommendations proposed by the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Team are posted on the WDA website. Wyoming will mor than likely need to have dealers licensed in order to ensure the reinstatement of our Class A Status. Terry Cleveland is hosting a meeting to explain the management plan in Pinedale sometime in August. There is a fence proposed on the Muddy Creek feed ground but Game & Fish is looking closely to ensure there will not be any interference with wildlife migration.

Predator Control Boards - Gene wants every PAB to draft a budget and submit it to the ADMB where it will to the board. This will ensure we have good figures to be able to go to the Joint Ag Committee with. They asked for a listing of all PAB's be sent to them.

Sage Grouse - There will be an on-the-ground informational meeting at the Deseret Ranch on June 29. Jim Schwartz is putting together a meeting of all working groups in September. He is hoping to have several experts come in to speak.

Branded Beef - Lee would like to see some additional research on the WY beef plan.

Energy - Lee talked about de-centralized energy. He will pursue gathering information and funding outlets. He sees this as a way to stabilize the supply and reduced dependency. John indicated Minnesota is using alternative energy quite a bit and that might be a good source of information.

Board goals and budget - David Largent wants to have this put into action. John visited about a budget until the end of 2005. He needs information from the board as to how many meetings and for how many days each, in order to put a budget together.

PAB funding - The Joint Ag Committee is proposing ten million dollars per biennium to go through the ADMB for funding of the Predatory Animal Boards. Some would like to see it go through the WDA budget, but John felt it would be better to go through the ADMB so there would be some rules and regulations.

Liaison assignments - Each member was asked to give their choice of assignment to the President. Each member can email the rest of their choices to her and when compiled, will be sent via email to each member. Below is a list of the choices given on the call.

Lee Otto - Farmer's Union, Mediation, and Wheat Commission

Meghan Lally - Game & fish, Wool Growers, Grazing Board, and Water Commission

Jim Mickelson - Livestock Board and Mediation

Helen Jones - Land Commissions, Conservation Districts, Farm Bureau and Ag Valuation

Spencer Ellis - already left the call

David Graham - Weed & Pest, Predator Board, Conservation Districts, and Water Commission

Gene Hardy - Stock Growers, Wool Growers and Livestock Board.

Ryan Ells announced his family has sold the farm and they will be moving to Washington to continue in agriculture.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m. by Helen Jones.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Jones, President

Date